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FOR ſome Time paſt the Duke and Dutcheſs of Mirandola have had an Aſſembly at their Houſe every Night of Perſons of the firſt Quality in Madrid, to which all the Foreign Miniſters frequently went. Their Houſe in this Town wanting ſome Repairs at preſent, the Duke and Dutcheſs had borrowed for a few Weeks another Houſe a little without the Town belonging to the Count d'Onate, to which they removed about ten Days ago, and where they continued their Aſſembly: This Houſe ſtands low, having a large Garden behind it upon a riſing Ground, the Wall of which almoſt joyns to that of the Town, beyond the Garden there are alſo other riſing Grounds, though far from being mountainous. The Aſſembly there on the 15th Inſtant in the Evening happened to be thinner than uſual, by Reaſon of the Illneſs of the Marqueſs de los Balbaſes's Son, which hindered not only the ſaid Marqueſs and his Lady from being there, but alſo the Dukes and Dutcheſſes of Medina-Celi and of Arcos, the Princeſs Pio, and the Ambaſſadreſs of Venice, who otherwiſe ſeldom failed. The Aſſembly then conſiſted only of the Duke and Dutcheſs of Mirandola, the Duke of Liria, the Duke of Atri, the Pope's Nuncio, the Ambaſſadour of Venice, Prince Pio, the Prince of Cellamare, the Abbot Grimaldo, Don Tiberio Caraffa, Don Lelio Caraffa, and ſome few others: Who being met as uſual, a violent Storm of Thunder and Lightning happened about Nine a Clock: The Dutcheſs of Mirandola being frightened left the Company, and went into her Chappel to pray, three Rooms from that of the Aſſembly, though upon the ſame Ground Floor; and about Ten a-Clock a Torrent of Water that had come from the riſing Grounds having broke down the Wall of the Town, did the ſame to that of the Garden, and in an Inſtant burſt open the Window-Shutters of the Ground Apartment, overturned all the Tables and Lights, and filled the Rooms with Water: The Dutcheſs of Mirandola with her Maids were immediately drowned. The Men ran out into the Court-Yard before the Houſe, which they found covered with Water, and Prince Pio endeavouring to ſave himſelf in the Street, was carried away by the Torrent and his Body was found the Day after two Leagues from Madrid: Don Tiberio Caraffa got upon the Top of a Coach, which overturning by the Force of the Stream was thrown againſt another, by which he received a Blow that laid his Head almoſt open, and he was immediately drowned: The Prince of Cellamare placed himſelf upon another Coach, which likewiſe overturned, but he had the good Fortune to get again upon the Wheel, where he remained till Help was brought to him, yet he was extremely bruiſed and had ſwallowed a great Quantity of Water and Sand: The Duke of Liria was running the ſame Fate with Prince Pio, but being a good deal taller, and ſeeing by help of the Lightning a Window over his Head, he jumped up and caught hold of the Iron Grates before it, by which he held till the People in the upper Apartment let down Cords to him, by which they drew him up: The Ambaſſadour of Venice not being able to get out of the Aſſembly-Room where the Water was ten Foot high, ſupported himſelf for two Hours upon two Chairs, which ſwam upon the Surface of the Water, till it abated enough for him to get out at the Door: As for the Pope's Nuncio and the Duke de Atri, they had left the Company half an Hour before the Accident happened: The reſt of the Gentlemen were ſaved, but how not one of them is able to give a rational Account. By the Death of Prince Pio two very great Employments are become vacant, viz. that of Captain General of Catalonia, and Maſter of the Horſe to the Princeſs of Aſturias; and by Don Tiberio Caraffa's Death, that of Captain General of Guipuſcoa.

Letters